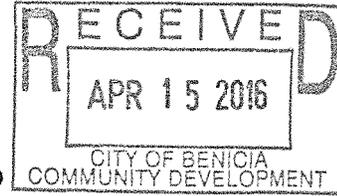


April 6, 2016



City Council Meeting re: Valero

My name is Janette Wolf, and I'm a Benicia resident. I don't normally get involved in political causes, but I'm here because I feel passionately about our earth and our environment.

As you [the City Council] know, the people of Benicia are paying very close attention to you around this issue, especially right now. Based on the sheer number of public comments, a large majority of Benicia's citizens are opposed to this project, as are scores of individuals and groups outside of Benicia. As you know, Valero's proposed project does not just impact Benicia. It has major impacts throughout the state and beyond. If you choose to go against the will of a clear majority of Benicians, it will be very clear to me who owns this town. Not We the People, but Big Oil.

The Planning Commission heard days of testimony from Benicia's citizens and others, including scientists and environmental experts. Most were united in saying that this project is an environmental catastrophe waiting to happen. I'm not an expert myself; I'm a writer and a teacher. But I care deeply about our beautiful Earth. Haven't we defiled it enough? We should be looking for ways to make it cleaner for future generations, not adding another way to defile it. Rather than looking for new ways to gather and transport oil, Valero and other oil companies should be investing resources into renewable sources of energy for the future. Based on the impacts on our planet of processing, transporting, and burning oil, it's clear that it should stay in the earth.

How do you want history to remember you, as a governing body? Do you want to be remembered as the Benicia City Council who had an opportunity to make significant positive change for our community, our environment, and our world but failed to do so, thus adversely impacting millions?

If you care about the future of our beautiful planet and the will of the people of Benicia, you have a moral imperative to honor the Planning Commission's decision.

Thank you.